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Report of the Special Committee on Crop Insurance and Weather Modification 2
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

REPORT

of the

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

on

CROP INSURANCE

and

WEATHER MODIFICATION

March, 1973

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REPORT

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE

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Legislative Building
Edmonton, Alberta
February 1, 1973

To The Honorable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

Honorable Members:

It is indeed with pleasure that I present the Report of the Special Committee of the Alberta Legislature on Crop Insurance and Weather Modification, especially since our Interim Report was so well received and accepted by this legislature and, most of our recommendations are already implemented or will be implemented for the 1973 Crop year. Such acceptance and action gives our Committee a real feeling of satisfaction.

Our final report is exactly the same as our interim one dated November 10, 1972 with the exception that we have added a recommendation.

Gordon Stromberg, MLA Camrose
CHAIRMAN

Legislative Building
Edmonton, Alberta
November 6, 1972

To The Honorable
The Legislative Assembly of
The Province of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

Honorable Members:

It is with pleasure that I present the Report of the Special Committee of the Alberta Legislature on Crop Insurance and Weather Modification. This committee was appointed in May of this year and held our first meeting on May 30, 1972. We realized fully that the summer was a very short period of time to complete the task assigned to us, namely to study and report on:

(1) All Risk Crop Insurance and Hail Insurance in Alberta.
(2) Operations of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation and line companies dealing in such insurance and
(3) Organizations and research institutions operating in the field of weather modification.

Our committee quickly organized fifteen information type meetings and eight hearing type meetings throughout Alberta, these were held during July and August. We sent two members to South Dakota and one to Texas to study weather modification at conferences held at these locations. We met with several organizations, grain companies and research institutions to familiarize ourselves with their programs. In all, 33 meetings were held plus many details done by individual members or groups of one or two.

We think the information meetings did much to create interest in the subject we studied and certainly resulted in very high calibre briefs from the farming public.

I am pleased to inform you that our committee, after a very few meetings, became very cohesively minded and harmoniously worked hard to develop programs helpful to Alberta farmers. All members except our secretary were actively farming, but everyone sacrificed their farming interests to devote time to our committee work. The workload was just too much to complete our whole assignment by October 30, 1972, therefore, we decided to write an interim report covering Crop Insurance, Hail Insurance and Weather Modification for the October deadline and complete the remainder of our assignment for the February 1973 session.

I wish to express thanks to the staff of the Alberta Department of Agriculture for their co-operation and assistance in many ways. Particularly our sincere thanks to the District Agriculturists who so willingly assisted with advertising arrangements, meeting space and for participation at both the information and hearing meetings.

I also wish to express, on behalf of my Committee and myself, our sincere appreciation for the amount of time, energy and work that our secretary, Mr. Gordon Sterling, has given to our Committee.

I have been privileged to serve as Chairman of this Committee and hope that our recommendations will be implemented to assist Alberta farmers.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Special MLA Committee on Crop Insurance and Weather Modification.

Gordon Stromberg, MLA Camrose
CHAIRMAN

REPORT OF

SPECIAL MLA COMMITTEE ON CROP INSURANCE AND WEATHER MODIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

On May 19, 1972 the Legislative Assembly, Province of Alberta passed a resolution to establish a Special MLA Committee on Crop Insurance and Weather Modification. The following is a copy of Order in Council No. 1352/72 which names the Committee and outlines the purpose and responsibilities of the Committee.

Approved and Ordered, O.C. 1352/72

Grant MacEwan
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Edmonton
August 22, 1972

The Executive Council has had under consideration the report of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, dated August 9, 1972, stating that:

WHEREAS by a Resolution of the Legislative Assembly on May 19, 1972, it was resolved that the Government appoint a Crop Insurance and Weather Modification Committee consisting of certain persons:

THEREFORE, upon the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, the Executive Council advises that the Lieutenant Governor in Council hereby appoints a CROP INSURANCE AND WEATHER MODIFICATION COMMITTEE, consisting of the persons and for the purposes specified in the Appendix attached hereto.

Hon. Peter Lougheed
CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX

CROP INSURANCE AND WEATHER MODIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Crop Insurance and Weather Modification Committee shall consist of the following:

Gordon Stromberg, M.L.A., Camrose	- Chairman
John W. Cookson, M.L.A., Lacombe	- Member
Marvin E. Moore, M.L.A., Smoky River	"
Donald A. Hansen, M.L.A., Bonnyville	"
Robert C. Clark, M.L.A., Olds-Didsbury	"
Fred Mandeville, M.L.A., Bow Valley	"
John Langelier, Falher	"
Robin Wallace, Manola	"
James P. Christie, Trochu	"
Richard Page, Unifarm, Didsbury	"
Gordon R. Sterling, Civil Servant, Edmonton	" and Secretary

for the purpose of studying and receiving representations and recommendations on the following:

1. Federal and Provincial legislation and regulations pertaining to All Risk Crop Insurance and Hail Insurance.
2. The operation of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation and line companies also dealing in such insurance.
3. Organizations and research institutions operating in the field of weather modification.

The Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair and be empowered to:

1. Hold hearings throughout Alberta.
2. Advertise for written submissions.
3. Incur such expenses as are necessary to the work of the Committee subject to such expenditures being involved to and approved by the Secretary of the Committee.
4. Pay to those Members of the Committee not authorized to receive expenses by The Legislative Assembly Act and The Public Service Act, expenses at the rate of $40 per day for each day upon which such Member attends meetings or is otherwise engaged in authorized business of the Committee, and travel and subsistence expenses at a rate equal to the rates applicable to employees of

4. the Public Service.

5. Charge or be reimbursed for all such expenses listed above from Appropriation 2708 - Surveys and Commissions.

Approved and Ordered,

O. C. 1385/72

Hon. Grant MacEwan
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Edmonton,
August 29, 1972

Upon the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, dated August 23, 1972, the Executive Council advises that the Lieutenant Governor in Council amends Order in Council numbered O.C. 1352/72 as to the Appendix, which appointed a Crop Insurance and Weather Modification Committee, by striking out the words "Richard Page, Unifarm, Didsbury" and by substitution the words "John Sawiak, Vegreville".

Hon. Peter Lougheed
CHAIRMAN

PROCEDURE

The Committee at its first meeting decided that a number of information meetings should be held to inform farmers about the present insurance program and the fact that a Special MLA Committee studying Crop Insurance and Weather Modification would be calling for briefs on the aforementioned topics. The information meetings at Olds and Three Hills dealt largely with Weather Modification. Mr. Merle Williams, from South Dakota Weather Modification Project, Dr. Peter Summers of Alberta Hailstop Project and Dr. Alfred Peterson of Agricultural Economics, University of Alberta spoke on Weather Modification at these meetings. The Crop Insurance and Hail Insurance Programs were discussed by Mr. M. McKay and Mr. Ed Patching at all information meetings and Gordon Sterling covered the Weather Modification topic at meetings other than Olds and Three Hills. The information meetings were held at the following places and dates:

June 22	Three Hills	July 7	Fairview
June 23	Olds	July 10	Forestburg
July 4	Lacombe	July 18	Vermilion
July 4	Leduc	July 18	St. Paul
July 5	Westlock	July 19	Vulcan
July 6	Grande Prairie	July 20	Lethbridge
July 6	Falher	July 20	Brooks
July 7	Fort Vermilion		

The full Committee attended the Olds and Three Hills meeting but the other meetings were attended by the secretary member, the Committee members living near the area and about two other members.

Each meeting averaged six Committee members in attendance. These information meetings encouraged many people to prepare well thought out-high quality briefs for the hearing meetings which followed.

August 16	Brooks	August 25	Barrhead
August 17	Three Hills	August 28	Forestburg
August 18	Olds	August 30	Falher
August 23	Leduc	August 31	Manning

A total of 91 briefs were presented orally at the above meetings; and many also left written copies of their presentation with the secretary-member. The Committee asked each farmer several questions for clarification purposes. Audiences at each meeting were encouraged to participate and all entered the discussions with questions and opinions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations in this report are organized under four main headings, namely:

(1) All Risk Crop Insurance

(2) Hail Insurance

(3) Those affecting both All Risk and Hail Insurance and

(4) Weather Modification

ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE

The following recommendations re All Risk Crop Insurance are based largely on the information presented to the Committee by the farmers at the public meetings we held. As expected, some suggestions contradicted others but the Committee considered all suggestions carefully. The following appeared to be the main concerns of farmers regarding the All Risk Crop Insurance Program:

(1) Farmers wanted spot losses on a quarter section basis.

(2) Individual average yields appeared to be a must instead of the average for an area.

(3) The number of policies has dropped drastically during the last three or four years, indicating non-acceptance of the present program.

(4) Many farmers took All Risk Crop Insurance so they would not have to pay into the Prairie Farm Assistance Act Fund. When payment to this fund was not required, many dropped their policy because it did not meet their insurance needs.

(5) Many farmers originally supported the All Risk Crop Insurance because they felt an insurance program was needed in Alberta. They requested changes to meet their insurance needs and strongly suggested that a changed program would be well supported.

1. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE UNIT TO BE INSURED SHOULD BE A QUARTER SECTION AND SHOULD INCLUDE SPOT LOSSES (NOT LESS THAN A TEN ACRE SPOT) FOR NATURAL DEFINABLE HAZARDS AND WITH EMPHASIS ON PRE-HARVESTING ADJUSTING AND/OR INSPECTION.

Discussion

Most farmers objected to All Risk Coverage being over the whole farm. They felt that each quarter should be insured and covered separately regardless of what crops were grown on other quarter sections farmed by that individual.

Many requested such coverage even if premiums might be higher. The Committee were informed that some farmers did not report all grain produced to the Corporation. The Committee thinks that this practice could be stopped by pre-harvest adjusting and/or inspection.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT INSURANCE COVERAGE AND PREMIUM FOR ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE BE BASED ON A 6 TO 10 YEAR AVERAGE OF THE INDIVIDUAL FARMER'S QUARTER SECTION IN QUESTION.

Discussion

The Committee agreed that some farmers produce much more than others even if the same type of soil is involved. Each producer should have his coverage based on his own 6 to 10 year average on each quarter section he farms. It may be necessary to start each producer's coverage based on a common average for the area with an allowance for good management practices. This average should be adjusted up or down as quickly as actual yield experience is obtained.

3. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BE REQUESTED TO PAY 50% OF THE ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT BE REQUESTED TO PAY 100% OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

Discussion

Canada Government officials through discussion with the Committee suggested that the Federal Government was willing to pay 50% of premiums instead of the present arrangement whereby the Federal Government pays 25% of premiums and 50% of administrative costs provided the provinces pay 50% of administrative costs. The Committee recommends that the Alberta Government requests the Government of Canada to make the necessary changes. Alberta farmers would greatly benefit from such an arrangement.

4. RECOMMENDATION

THAT ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE BE MADE AVAILABLE IN ALL AGRICULTURAL AREAS OF THE PROVINCE.

Discussion

Several areas presently without All Risk Crop Insurance requested that their areas be included in a new program. The Committee thinks this program should be available to all agricultural areas of Alberta because Provincial and Federal Government funds are involved.

5. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION BE REQUESTED TO DESIGN SPECIAL INSURANCE PLANS UNDER THE ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE PROGRAMS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF IRRIGATED AREAS.

Discussion

Farmers from the irrigated areas of Alberta stated that the present All Risk Crop Insurance programs did not meet their needs. The Committee was convinced that such areas have several high input special crops which should be insurable under the All Risk programs. They require special insurance programs.

6. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION GIVE CONSIDERATION TO INSURING ALL CROPS (OTHER THAN THOSE PRESENTLY INSURED) AS DEMAND FROM FARMERS INDICATES.

Discussion

The Committee thinks that all farmer producers should have the opportunity to insure their crops regardless of the one being produced.

7. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION BE REQUESTED TO REMOVE THE 25 ACRE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT UNDER THE ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM.

Discussion

Some small farmers may have few acres in certain crops and are unable to insure them under the All Risk Crop Insurance program. The Committee think a dollar premium as is used under hail insurance would be a better procedure the the Corporation to insure that they were not writing a policy

for very small nuisance type acreages.

8. RECOMMENDATION

THAT ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM BE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

Discussion

The Committee asked most of the farmers who presented briefs whether All Risk Crop Insurance should be voluntary or compulsory. By far the greater number preferred that it be on a voluntary basis.

9. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION, FARM ORGANIZATIONS AND THE ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BE MUTUALLY INVOLVED IN AN EDUCATION PROGRAM TO INFORM FARMERS ABOUT THE NEW PROGRAMS UNDER ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE.

Discussion

The Committee held information meetings because they realized farmers were not fully informed about all the details of the All Risk Crop Insurance program. This lack of knowledge was confirmed at all of the hearing meetings. The Committee thinks that with a revised new insurance program, much can be done through education programs to assist Alberta farmers.

10. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION BE REQUESTED TO MAKE RAPESEED A MAJOR CROP UNDER THE ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM.

Discussion

Many farmers are growing rapeseed as their major crop. The Committee thinks that it should also be used as a major crop as well as wheat and/or barley.

11. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION BE REQUESTED TO CHANGE THE DATE A FARMER CAN CANCEL HIS ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE POLICY FROM JANUARY 31 TO MARCH 31.

Discussion

Farmers have not finalized their cropping plans during the month of January and often the 31st of January slips by before the farmer remembers to check his policy. The Committee feels that March 31st is a more realistic date when the farmer is thinking about his crops and insurance requirements for the growing season.

12. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA ENCOURAGE THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION AND THE GRAIN TRADE TO APPOINT ELEVATOR MANAGERS AS THE CROP INSURANCE AND HAIL INSURANCE AGENT.

Discussion

The Committee feels that the elevator manager is a trusted and respected member of the community and is well accepted by farmers of his area. Farmers see him often, he helps them with many things, e.g. signing documents requiring a Commissioner for Oaths, he is knowledgeable of his area and could help establish individual farm averages, and he communicates well with farmers. Because of the foregoing, the Committee feels the elevator manager is the logical choice as agent for the Corporation.

13. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA AND THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION REQUEST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS OF HONEY PRODUCERS IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA.

Discussion

Alberta Honey Producers are often faced with losses resulting from pesticide sprays, wildlife damage and poor weather conditions, and have suggested to the Committee that the All Risk Crop Insurance Program might be a useful vehicle to provide them with a production guarantee.

14. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION BE REQUESTED TO EMPLOY AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF REGIONAL SUPERVISORS TO WORK WITH AND SUPERVISE AGENTS, AND TO ORGANIZE AND CHECK ON ADJUSTERS TO INSURE UNIFORMITY

OF ADJUSTING. SAID SUPERVISORS TO WORK ON BOTH THE CROP INSURANCE AND HAIL INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

Discussion

Several expressed concern about lack of supervision of agents and also poor supervision of adjusting crews. The Committee feels that supervision cannot be handled for all Alberta from one central point, namely Calgary.

15. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND ALBERTA BE REQUESTED TO CHANGE THE NAME FROM ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE TO CROP PRODUCTION GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

Discussion

Many think that the present program is really not insurance in the common usage sense of the word "insurance". Insurance is usually taken to mean a payment for something that is actually lost, stolen or damaged, example: car insurance. The present plan really guarantees a certain level of production either in bushels or can be converted to dollars. The present plan is often misunderstood, therefore, the Committee thinks the name "Crop Production Guarantee Program" would better describe the present and future programs.

HAIL INSURANCE

16. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT EXEMPT THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION AND LINE INSURANCE COMPANIES SELLING HAIL INSURANCE IN ALBERTA FROM THE 2% INSURANCE TAX ON PREMIUMS.

Discussion

The 2% insurance tax increases the cost of premiums farmers must pay whether they buy insurance from the Corporation or from line companies. The Committee is of the opinion that the exemption of hail insurance from this tax could be a saving which would be passed on to farmers.

17. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION BE REQUESTED TO CHANGE THE CUT OFF DATE FOR HAIL AND FIRE INSURANCE FROM SEPTEMBER 30 TO OCTOBER 31.

Discussion

Several farmers informed the Committee that hail sometimes occurs in October and can cause damage to standing or swathed grain. The fire hazard can be just as great in October as September. In fact, the greatest fire hazard is when combines and other equipment are being used during actual harvest operations.

ALL RISK CROP INSURANCE AND HAIL INSURANCE

18. RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION BE REQUESTED TO CONTINUE TO USE THEIR LIEN PROCEDURE TO COLLECT ACCOUNTS BUT THAT THEY REQUIRE THE FARMER TO PAY ONLY ONE HALF (1/2) THE VALUE OF ALL DELIVERIES UNTIL THE AMOUNT OF THE LIEN IS PAID.

Discussion

Farmers often must also pay local accounts as well as the lien for Hail and/or Crop Insurance. The Committee feels that the farmer should have some income, to be used to pay other accounts at the start of grain deliveries.

19. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA ESTABLISH A THREE MAN ADJUSTING TRIBUNAL TO WHICH FARMERS COULD APPEAL ADJUSTMENTS ON CROP INSURANCE, HAIL INSURANCE AND WILDLIFE DAMAGE AND,

THAT THE SAID TRIBUNAL WOULD ALSO ADEQUATELY SUPERVISE, DO SPOT CHECKS ON, AND LICENSE ALL CROP INSURANCE, HAIL INSURANCE AND WILDLIFE ADJUSTERS IN ALBERTA.

Discussion

The Committee found considerable dissatisfaction with the hail adjusting done by line companies. The present appeal system is very inadequate from the farmer's point of view. The Committee thinks that a separate tribunal who are not involved in the selling of hail or crop insurance could be impartial. At the moment, there is no appeal from the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation, the Committee feels there should be such a tribunal separate from the Board of the Corporation.

20. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE PREPARE A SINGLE PAGE ATTACHMENT SETTING OUT IN BOLD PRINT THE APPEAL PROCEDURES A FARMER MUST FOLLOW AND THAT ALL LINE COMPANIES BE REQUIRED TO ATTACH SAID FORM AS THE FRONT PAGE OF EACH AND EVERY POLICY.

Discussion

The Committee found that most farmers are not familiar with appeal procedures as required for appeals against line company hail insurance adjustments. It was felt that the farmer should be given seven full calendar days after an unsatisfactory adjustment to file an appeal. The Committee strongly recommends that the attachment page be in laymans language and easily interpreted.

21. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA REQUEST THE CANADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SPONSOR AN ANNUAL CROP INSURANCE CONFERENCE TO BE ATTENDED BY ALL PROVINCIAL CORPORATION DIRECTORS AND SENIOR STAFF, AND BY THE STAFF FROM THE CROP INSURANCE SECTION OF THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO STUDY AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, NEW IDEAS, ETC.

Discussion

The Committee learned that there are different programs in the provinces. It was felt that such a conference each year would keep all people concerned with Crop Insurance abreast with the crop insurance situation throughout Canada.

22. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE BOARD OF THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION BE CHANGED FROM THE PRESENT 5 MEMBER BOARD TO A 7 MEMBER BOARD, FOUR OF WHOM SHALL BE FARMERS AND ONE FARMER SHALL BE APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN AND FURTHER THAT NONE OF THE BOARD MEMBERS SHALL BE AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CORPORATION.

Discussion

The Committee feels, that in order to develop and maintain a successful Crop Insurance Program, the Board of Directors should be large enough so that Alberta farmers are well represented. We do not think the Chairman of the Board or Directors should be involved in day to day management of the Corporation.

WEATHER MODIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

The Special MLA Committee were very much interested and impressed with the "Hail Suppression Program" that did operate in Alberta and that are now in operation in other parts of the world. Much research has been done on this topic and more will be needed. Alberta leads the way as far as research is concerned in Canada and also stands high from the research point of view amongst research organizations throughout the world. Research on this topic has centred around Penhold (old R.C.A.F. Station).

The Committee fully realized that weather modification is rapidly acquiring a transitional status from strictly research to full application. Balancing incomplete research with the availability of working techniques and demands from the farmer for realizing the potential benefits will require the careful thought of all concerned.

23. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE COMMITTEE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT AN ACTIVE HAIL SUPPRESSION PROGRAM BE STARTED IN ALBERTA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS PROGRAM SHOULD BE A FIVE YEAR EXPERIMENTAL OR TRIAL ONE AND SHOULD INCLUDE AS MUCH RESEARCH, EG. HAILSTOP TYPE, AS POSSIBLE.

Discussion

The Committee would hope that all individual farmers, researchers, and all other organizations involved with hail programs in Alberta in the past sould forget bygones and pull together to make the action and research hail program more effective in the future. It is estimated that such programs would cost between $800,000 and $1,000,000 annually, but estimated savings could be as high as 20 million annually.

24. RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE FIVE YEAR EXPERIMENTAL OR TRIAL PROGRAMS SHOULD BE FUNDED FOR THE TRIAL PERIOD BY THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, AND

FURTHER THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF USING A PORTION OF THE RESERVE FUNDS HELD BY THE ALBERTA HAIL AND CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION TO HELP FUND THIS PROGRAM.

Discussion

The Committee learned that farmers in a large area around Three Hills and Olds general areas have spent rather large sums of money in the past on a hail suppression program for that area. Their efforts have given the Alberta people much experience in this field. In view of this and because of knowledge gained will benefit all Albertans, the Committee thinks the province should pay the full expenses of the programs for a five year trial period.

IMPLEMENTATION SUGGESTIONS

The Committee suggests the following procedures, etc., to carry out recommendations number 22 and 23.

(a) The Legislative Assembly pass a "Weather Modification Act" which would establish a Weather Modification Corporation or Commission to be operated and administered by a Board of Directors, consisting of 9 members made up as indicated below:

2 Full Time Members
6 Farmer Members
1 Councillor for M.D. or County Member

All board members to be appointed by the Government with the Association of rural M.D.'s and Counties to nominate the council member.

(b) The said Corporation to be responsible for action programs to effectively control hail and also for hail research programs. The Corporation be instructed to call all people who have been involved with hail research or hail suppression and clearly establish what research is to be done, eg. by whom and how the research and action programs will be evaluated.

(c) The Weather Modification Act should give the Corporation the following authority and/or responsibilities:

1. Responsible to administer a weather modification experimental program in Alberta.
2. Responsible to administer a hail research program in Alberta.
3. Responsible for a continuing evaluation with an annual report.
4. Authority to hire and/or contract with private individuals or public agencies to do (a) research on hail suppression
   (b) an active hail suppression program
   (c) an evaluation of both the research and action programs and

(d) other programs deemed necessary to effectively control hail.

5. Authority to establish, with the consent of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a hail research and hail suppression area to be operated as a unit by the Corporation. Said area to be established by the Corporation.
6. Authority to hold a plebiscite in the area established at least one year before the end of the 5 year experimental or trial period to determine whether the Corporation should continue with the hail research, hail suppression and evaluation programs on the basis that the costs of the Corporation programs be shared by the farmers, in the area on a mill rate basis, the Counties, M.D.'s or I.D.'s in the area, and the Government of Alberta. The portions to be funded by each of the three (farmers, Counties and Government) be established by the Corporation prior to plebiscite. The Corporation should establish the portions each should pay by discussions with the Alberta Government, Department of Agriculture, the Association of Rural Municipalities and Counties and discussions with farmers at public meetings.
7. Authority to have the Counties, M.D.'s or I.D.'s collect a mill rate to cover the farmer's share of the programs.
8. Authority to hold a plebiscite at least every five years after the first plebiscite.
9. Authority to do other things usually given to Corporations and/or Commissions.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

All Risk Crop Insurance

(1) The insurable unit be a quarter section and include spot losses.

(2) That coverage and premium be based on a 6 to 10 year average of the quarter in question.

(3) That Federal Government pay 50% of premiums and Provincial Government pay pay all Administration costs.

(4) Crop Insurance be made available to all Alberta farmers.

(5) Special programs for irrigated areas.

(6) All crops be insurable.

(7) The 25 acre minimum requirement be removed.

(8) Keep program on a voluntary basis.

(9) An educational program is needed.

(10) Make rapeseed a major crop.

(11) Change cancellation date from January 31st to March 31st.

(12) Use elevator Managers as Corporation Agents.

(13) Consider insuring honey production.

(14) The Corporation should employ regional supervisors.

(15) Change the name to Crop Production Guarantee Program.

Hail Insurance

(15) The 2% tax on premiums be dropped.

(17) The cut off date for Hail and Fire Insurance be October 31st.

All Risk Crop and Hail Insurance Program

(18) The Corporation collect only ½ of deliveries on liens.

(19) The Government establish a three man Tribunal to hear appeals.

(20) The Federal Government sponsor an annual Crop Insurance Conference.

(21) Change the Corporation board from five to seven members.

Weather Modification

(22) The Government of Alberta start a 5 year hail suppression program in Alberta as soon as possible.

(23) The Government of Alberta to fund the above 5 year program.

Respectively submitted by the Special Committee on Crop Insurance and Weather Modification.

Gordon Stromberg, MLA Camrose, Chairman

Marvin Moore, MLA Smoky River, Member

Fred Mandeville, MLA Bow Valley, Member

Donald Hansen, MLA Bonnyville, Member

Jack Cookson, MLA Lacombe, Member

Bob Clark, MLA Olds - Didsbury, Member

Robin Wallace, Manola, Member

James P. Christie, Trochu, Member

John Sawiak, Vegreville, Member

John Langelier, Falher, Member

Gordon R. Sterling, Edmonton, Secretary Member

Alberta. Legislative Assembly.
Special Committee on Crop
Insurance and Weather Modification

Report.

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